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Ode on the Coronation  
of King Edward



# Ode

## on the Coronation of King Edward



By Bliss Carman

Boston  
L. C. Page & Company  
1902

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ON · THE · CORONATION · OF · HIS · MAJESTY  
EDWARD · VII · BY · THE · GRACE · OF · GOD  
OF · THE · UNITED · KINGDOM · OF · GREAT  
BRITAIN · AND · IRELAND · AND · OF · THE  
BRITISH · DOMINIONS · BEYOND · THE · SEAS  
KING · DEFENDER · OF · THE · FAITH · EM-  
PEROR · OF · INDIA · AT · WESTMINSTER · IN  
JUNE · IN · THE · YEAR · OF · OUR · LORD · ONE  
THOUSAND · NINE · HUNDRED · AND · TWO



# Ode on the Coronation of King Edward



1902



HERE are joy-bells over England,  
there are flags on London town ;  
There is bunting on the channel,  
where the fleets go up and down ;  
There are bonfires alight  
In the pageant of the night ;  
There are bands that blare for splendour, and guns  
that speak for might ;  
For another king in England is coming to the  
crown.



## Coronation Ode

### II.

As it was in Saxon Britain, and through the Nor-  
man's sway,

And with the mighty Tudors, so it must be to-day.

For the English kings must hold

From Alfred, great of old,

From Sea-king and Crusader and Elizabeth the  
Bold,

And every free-born Commoner whose strength is  
England's stay.

## Coronation Ode



### III.

They will take him up to Westminster, and set  
him in his place;  
And Church and Lords and Commons will stand  
before his face,  
And hear him make reply,  
In the name of God most high,  
To be their Faith's Defender, as it was in days  
gone by,  
With the thousand years behind him and the glory  
of his race.



## Coronation Ode

### IV.

They will give him orb and sceptre, the chalice,  
spurs and sword,

And vest him with the purple to kneel before his  
Lord ;

Then he will rise from prayer,  
In the ancient Minster there,

And hear the world's four corners proclaim the  
troth they bear,

And cry, "God save King Edward!" and pledge  
the liegeman's word.



## Coronation Ode



V.

They will keep the old tradition that fills the world  
with fame ;

They will hold by use and custom, and repeat the  
sounding name ;

And men a million strong

Will give him shout and song,

Where the trappings and the banners and the  
blazons move along,

When the bells make din by day, and by night the  
rockets flame.



## Coronation Ode

### VI.

There'll be men of little learning and men of  
proven worth,  
Of every caste and creed, come up from all the  
earth,  
To watch him brave and fine,  
To speak of right divine,—  
Plantagenet and Lancaster and Stuart in his line,—  
And bless the blameless memory of Her who gave  
him birth.

## Coronation Ode



### VII.

But who will stand before him, with simple words  
and few

And a knowledge of the morrow, and tell him  
straight and true,

Not only by God's grace

He comes unto his place,

The sovereignty of office, the reverend pride of  
race,

But by their will who choose him as their fathers  
used to do?



## Coronation Ode

### VIII.

By the touch of love that kindles the blood  
    beneath the tan ;  
By the loyalty they bear him because he is a man,  
    Who has learned the modest way  
    To serve and to obey,  
Who never flinched from duty, nor faltered in fair  
    play ;  
For the world is held together by the link of code  
    and clan.

## Coronation Ode



### IX.

Stand up, Sir, in your honour ! They come from  
near and far,  
Rajah and Chief and Councillor and Prince  
and Rasseldar,  
From Canada and Ind  
And the lands behind the wind,  
Whose purpose none may question nor their  
decree rescind,  
To name you King of England for the gentleman  
you are.



## Coronation Ode

X.

Premier and Peer and Senator, they come from far  
and near,

In kilted worn war-harness, in fez and jewelled  
gear,

In their proud fealty,

The new-world chivalry

From Melbourne and Toronto and the islands of  
the sea,

To render trust and tribute of all men hold most  
dear.

## Coronation Ode



### XI.

What people are these passing to the sound of pipe  
and drum,

In the garments of all nations, and singing as  
they come?

By the colour on the cheek,

By the accent when they speak,

They are foreign-born and alien, and their homes  
are far to seek ;

But they all come up to England, when England  
calls them home.



## Coronation Ode

### XII.

And these who speak the English tongue not in  
the English way,  
With the careless mien and temper self-assured,  
whose sons are they?  
By the larger, looser stride,  
By the ampler ease and pride,  
By the quicker catch at laughter and the outlook  
keener-eyed,  
They were bred beneath the tent-cloth of a wider,  
whiter day.



## Coronation Ode



### XIII.

From the rough red tides of Fundy where the  
ships go far inland,  
To Kamloops where the hills are set as at a  
council grand ;  
From the waving Northern light  
At the edge of polar night,  
Where underneath the burnished stars the bitter  
trail is bright,  
To the inland seas that sparkle where goodly  
orchards stand ;



## Coronation Ode

### XIV.

By prairie, swale, and barren, by jungle and lagoon,  
Where endless palm-trees rustle and the creamy  
breakers croon,  
By canyon, ford, and pass,  
By desert and morass,  
In snows like stinging lashes, on seas like burning  
glass,  
By every land and water beneath the great lone  
moon;

## Coronation Ode



XV.

Our fathers died for England at the outposts of  
the world ;

Our mothers toiled for England where the settlers'  
smoke upcurled ;

By packet, steam, and rail,

By portage, trek, and trail,

They bore a thing called honour in hearts that did  
not quail,

Till the twelve great winds of heaven saw their  
scarlet sign unfurled.



## Coronation Ode

### XVI.

And little did they leave us of fame or land  
or gold;

Yet they gave us great possessions in a heritage  
untold;

For they said, "Ye shall be clean,  
Nor ever false nor mean,

For God and for your country and the honour of  
your Queen,

Till ye meet the death that waits you with your  
plighted faith unsold.

## Coronation Ode



### XVII.

“We have fought the long great battle of the  
liberty of man,

And only asked a goodly death uncraven in the  
van;

We have journeyed travel-worn

Through envy and through scorn,

But the faith that was within us we have stub-  
bornly upborne,

For we saw the perfect structure behind the rough-  
hewn plan.



## Coronation Ode

XVIII.

“We have toiled by land and river, we have  
laboured on the sea ;

If our blindness made us blunder, our courage  
made us free.

We suffered or we throve,

We delved and fought and strove ;

But born to the ideals of order, law, and love,

To our birthright we were loyal, and loyal shall  
ye be!”

## Coronation Ode



### XIX.

Oh, East they go and West they go, and never can  
they bide,

For the longing that is in them, and the whisper  
at their side ;

They may stablish hearth and home,

But the sons will forth and roam,

As their fathers did before them, across the  
hollow foam,

Till strange lands lift to greet them at the edges of  
the tide.



## Coronation Ode

XX.

They have visions of a country that sorrow never  
knew;

They have rumours of a region where the heart  
has naught to rue;

And never will they rest

Till they reach the fabled West,

That is charted, dim but certain, in the Volume of  
the Breast.

And forever they are dreamers who make the  
dream come true.



## Coronation Ode



XXI.

In the North they are far forward, in the South  
they have begun,  
The English of three continents who take their  
rule from none,  
But follow on the gleam  
Of an ancient, splendid dream,  
That has manhood for its fabric, perfection for  
its theme,—  
With freedom for its morning star, and knowledge  
for its sun.



## Coronation Ode

XXII.

And slowly, very slowly, the gorgeous dream grows  
bright,

Where rise the four Democracies of Anglo-Saxon  
might:

The Republic, fair, alone ;

The Commonwealth, new-grown ;

The proud, reserved Dominion, with a story of  
her own ;

And One that shall emerge at length from travail,  
war, and blight.

## Coronation Ode



### XXIII.

Oh, doubt not, wrong, oppression, and violence  
and tears,  
The ignorance and anguish and folly of the years,  
Must pass and leave a mind  
More sane, a soul more kind,  
As the slow ages shall evolve a loftier mankind,  
When over lust and carnage the great white  
peace appears.



## Coronation Ode

XXIV.

For surely, very surely, will come the Prince of  
Peace  
To still the shrieking shrapnel and bid the Maxims  
cease,  
Not as invaders come  
With gun-wheel and with drum,  
But with the tranquil joyance of lovers going home  
Through the scented summer twilight, when the  
spirit has release.

## Coronation Ode



XXV.

By sea and plain and mountain will spread the  
larger creed,—

The love that knows no border, the bond that  
knows no breed;

For the little word of right

Must grow with truth and might,

Till monster-hearted Mammon and his sycophants  
take flight,

And vex the world no longer with rapine and  
with greed.



## Coronation Ode

XXVI.

O England, little mother by the sleepless Northern  
    tide,  
Having bred so many nations to devotion, trust,  
    and pride,  
    Very tenderly we turn  
    With welling hearts that yearn  
Still to love you and defend you,—let the sons of  
    men discern  
Wherein your right and title, might and majesty,  
    reside.

## Coronation Ode



### XXVII.

O Sir, no empty rumour comes up the earth to-day  
From the kindred and the peoples and the tribes  
a world away ;

For they know the Law will hold

And be equal as of old,

With conscience never questioned and justice  
never sold,

And beneath the form and letter the spirit will  
have play.



## Coronation Ode

### XXVIII.

When you hear the princely concourse take up the  
word and sing,  
And the Abbey of our fathers with acclamations  
ring,  
Know well that, true and free,  
By the changeless heart's decree,  
On all the winds of heaven and the currents  
of the sea  
From the verges of the Empire will come, "God  
save the King!"





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